

THE
CHURCHES
OF
WALPOLE, MASS.

BY

ELIZABETH COTTRELL

FOREWARD

Betty Cottrell, the foremost historian of Walpole, MA history had so many projects. She was working on a study of Smith's Dam in South Walpole, the Ganawattee Farm on the Sharon Line, the Royal Farm in South Walpole and too many other projects to mention. To me, the most important and complete work was of the churches of Walpole.

I was honored as a friend and fellow historian to go through some of her research after she died. Even in her mid nineties she had a keener mind than I and I would still turn to her for answer to my questions. I was startled to find this manuscript of the organization of churches in the town at the town's founding, but a study of all the churches that have been here including the names of all the ministers and priest ad their dates of being here. and in most cases even the original members that formed the churches.

This is being duplicated and shared with the church congregations.

Karl H. West, Jr.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

History	1
United Church.....	26
Methodist Church.....	56
East Walpole Church.....	70
South Walpole Church.....	84
Two Catholic Churches.....	150
Episcopal Church.....	189
Church History Study.....	204

The Succession of Churches

Note-Rev. George Phillips
 of Watertown, was a great-
 grandfather of Rev. Phillips
 Payson of Walpole, Mass.
 -F.R.L.

Watertown 1st. Church 1630
 gathered July 30, 1630
 1-Rev. George Phillips (who d. July 1, 1644)

Dedham 1st. Church - 1637
 (Parish set apart Sept. 10, 1636
 Church gathered Nov. 8, 1638)

1-Rev. John Allin 1638-1671
 2-Rev. William Adams 1673-1685
 3-Rev. Joseph Belcher 1693-1723
 4-Rev. Samuel Dexter 1724-1755

Note--The settlers of "Contentment"
 later called Dedham, came up the
 Charles River in canoes or boats
 from Watertown. So the Watertown
 Church was the mother Church of
 Dedham, as Dedham became the mother
 Church of Walpole, Norwood, West-
 wood and Dover.

Walpole-1725
 1-Rev. Joseph
 Belcher-1728
 2-Rev. Phillips
 Payson 1729-78

2nd. or South
 Parish of Dedham
 South Dedham-1735
 (Norwood)
 1-Rev. Thomas Balch
 1736-1774
 2-Rev. Jabez
 Chickering
 1776-1812

3rd. Parish
 or West Parish
 "Clapboardtrees"
 (Westwood)-1736
 1-Rev. Josiah
 Dwight
 1735-1743
 2-Rev. Andrew Tyler
 1743-1772

"Springfield"
 Parish
 (Dover) -1762
 1-Rev. Benj. Caryl
 1762-1811*

1818--split

Dedham
 1st. Parish
 turned
 Unitarian
 -1818

Allen
 Cong'l.
 Church
 1818

1826--split

Unitarian 1826
 1-Rev. John
 Storer
 1826-39

Congregational
 -1826
 1-Rev. Asahel
 Bigelow
 1828-49

Methodist-
 Episcopal-1874

United Church
 of
 Walpole-1927

-separated

Universal
 Church
 -1827-

Methodist-Episcopal Ch.
 1876 of Norwood

-united-1934-

East Walpole-1877
 (Congregational)
 1-Rev. Chas. B. Smith
 1877-1891

Islington-18
 (Congregational)

United Church
 of
 norwood-1934

In 1736--there were 87 persons assessed in South Dedham (Norwood)
 In 1765--the population of South Dedham (Norwood) was 441, with 43 houses.

F.R.L.

Edward Payson b.

came from Nazing, (Norfolk?) England

came on Ship Hoppewell in 1635.

settled in Roxbury, Mass. 1637 Freeman-May 13, 1640

m.1 Ann Parke, dau. of Dea. William Parke, of Roxbury

-she died leaving one son

m.2 Mary Eliot, dau. of Philip Eliot, bro. of Rev. John Eliot.

He removed to Dorchester, was a husbandman, d-

Rev. Edward Payson

b.

Harvard Class of 1677

assistant-minister at

Rowley

m. Elizabeth Phillips, dau. of

Rev. Samuel Phillips of

Rowley. d. 1732.

Samuel Payson

b- bp. 1662

m. Mary Phillips, dau. of

Rev. Samuel Phillips of Rowley

he d. 1721 was selectman.

Ephraim Payson

bp. in 1659

md.-

d-1732, aged ca. 73

Rev. Phillips Payson

b. 1704, bp. in Dorchester by Rev. Mr. Danforth

Harvard College-1724 A.B.-Harvard-1724, A.M. Harvard-1727.

minister at Walpole, Mass. 1729.

m.1 Anne Swift, dau. of Rev. John Swift of Framingham

she d- Dec. 30, 1756.

m.2 Kezia, wid. of Dea. Seth Morse of Medfield

she d.-

m.3 Sarah Mather, wid. of Thomas Mather, and dau. of

Dea. Edward Payson of Pomfret, Conn.

Rev. Phillips Payson died Jan. 22, 1778.

Rev. Phillips Payson Swift Payson

b. Jan. 18, 1735/6

Harvard Coll.-1754

minister-Chelsea

(Rumney-Marsh)

died-1801

b. Nov. 27, 1737

m. Esther Clap

-Dec. 11, 1766

Samuel Payson

b. Apr. 26, 1739

Harvard C.-1758

pastor at Lunen-

berg d. 1763

Dea. George Payson

b. May 24, 1744

m.1 Abigail Boyden

-1770

m.2 Kezia Morse-

1782

Rev. John

b. Jan. 6, 1745/6

Harvard-1764

pastor of First

Church-Pitchburg

d-1804

Rev. Seth Payson

b. Sept. 30, 1758 762

Harvard-1777 Yale

pastor-Rindge, NH

m. Grata Payson

1782 of

Pomfret, Conn.

died-1820

Rev. Edward Payson

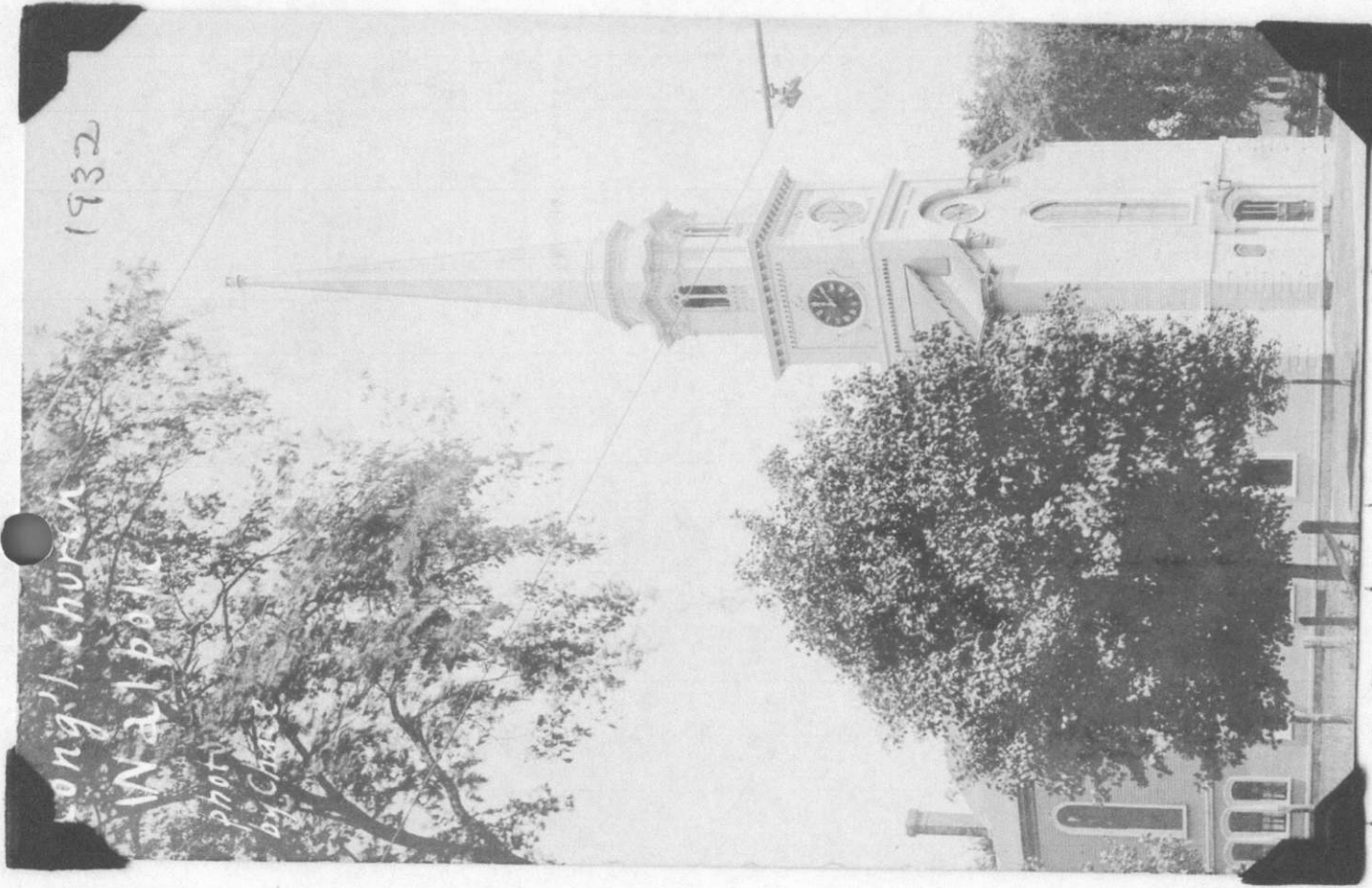
b-July 25, 1783

Harvard-1803, Bowdoin-182

died 1827

md-Anna L. Shipman, of

New Haven, Conn.



1932

Orthodox Church on East Walpole

photo
by Chase

Orthodox Church on East Walpole damaged by 1938 hurricane

and...

The Spreading of the Dedham Orthodox Church

The First Parish Church of Dedham split in 1818. The original Church turned Unitarian, while those who cling to the original faith had to withdraw and form their own church, the Allen Congregational

The First Parish Church of Walpole split in 1826. The original Church turned Unitarian, while those who clung to the original faith had to withdraw and form their own church, the Orthodox-Congregational or 2nd. Church of Walpole. They built their meetinghouse on East St. in 1826. In 1927 the First Parish, Unitarian, and the Orthodox-Congregational, and the Methodist-Episcopal Churches of Walpole united to form the United Church of Christ in Walpole. The old First Parish Church (the 2nd. building) built in 1783? had been moved from the Common onto its present location on Common Street. It had been turned so that the end would face the street. In 1927 this ancient church building was enlarged to accomodate the new United Church. The first Church built on the Common, near where the Cross stands, marking the place, was taken down in 1783? and the lumber used in the newer church.

The 2nd or South Parish of Dedham, formed in 1735 was the only church in what is now Norwood for nearly 100 years. In 1827 a large membership left the church to form the Universal Church at the other end of town. This was a great blow to the church, but through devoted members they sustained the loss and grew. In 1877 and probably a little before two churches Union Congregational Church of East Walpole, and the Congregational church of Islington separated from the mother church (of Norwood) to form churches in their own villages. This was not a split over faith, but a separation due to growth and location. They remained in the original faith of the mother church--they were daughter churches to Norwood church.

In 1827 the Universal Church of Norwood was formed, as I have said by their separation from the Orthodox-Congregational Church. In 1876 a Methodist-Episcopal church has been organized. Their first and only Church building stands at the junction of Washington and Walpole Streets. In 1934 they united to form the United Church of Christ in Norwood, and worship in the old Universal church.

The Methodist-Episcopal Church of Walpole Center, organized in 1874, continued until their merger with the Unitarian and Congregational parishes to form the United Church of Christ in Walpole. The Methodist Church stood nearly opposite the United Church. The site is now occupied by the United Church Parsonage.

The first Methodist Church in Walpole was formed in South Walpole village. in The present church building, built ca. 1846? is their second church building. This church is in a prosperous state.

The Epiphany Episcopal Church in Walpole was organized in 1887. I believe they held their first meetings in the hall over the old Hoopskirt factory, until they built their church on Front St. at the corner of West. The Methodists also held services in this hall over the Hoopskirt factory until they built their church (now gone) about 1885.

Sabbath School - Norwood Orthodox-Congregational Church

"In an historical sketch prepared in 1865 by a committee under the direction of Mr. Francis O. Winslow, opening of this Sunday School is placed in 1819. Its official title was "The South Dedham Congregationalist Sabbath School.

Rev. William Cogswell, Pastor of the Church, was the "originator, director and mainspring of the enterprise." The sessions were held between the morning and afternoon services, a practice which was followed for many years. The subject matter taught included the Catechism, Scripture and church hymns. Portions of these were assigned each Sunday, memorized during the week and recited at the next session. Little or no attempt ~~was~~ seems to have been made to explain the meaning of that which was memorized.

Beginning with 60 pupils divided into classes without regard to age or training with a group of untrained teachers, this little school grew slowly until in 1860 the membership was reported as 160 pupils and 20 teachers.

Among the lay workers in the early school, we find the names of men, many of whom occupied positions of trust in the church and the town. Deacon Chickering, Deacon Willard Everett, Francis W. Bird, ~~these and many other~~ Deacon Willard Everett, 2d, William Rhoads and Samuel Merrill--these and many others labored for the success of the Sunday School. That women were also faithful workers in this school is evidenced by a long list of names in the records from which the following were taken:--Mrs. Cogswell, wife of the Minister, Miss Hannah Chickering, laterwife of Dr. Briggs (she was a daughter of Rev. Jabez & Hannah (Balch) Chickering, and granddaughter of Rev. Thomas & Mary (Sumner) Balch--first and second ministers of the South Dedham Church--ed.) Miss ~~Rene~~ Everett, Miss Vina Everett (Later a Missionary to the Indians) the Misses Dean (Mrs. Willard Everett, Mrs. George Force and Mrs. Ellis Morse) and Miss Catherine Talbot.

In 1865 Mr. Francis O. Winslow became Superintendent of the Sunday School, and for a period of 28 years he devoted time, money and consecrated effort to its upbuilding.

-copied from the "Manual of the First Congregational Church in Norwood, Mass. 1936. edition. (200th Anniversary Edition.)

(Probably many of our early church workers/~~received their~~ spiritual education in this Sunday School. ^{at Union Ch. E. Walpole} received their-

(October 26, 1952)

WALPOLE CHURCH GOES BACK TO 1725

In 1725 a Congregational meeting house was built on the Common by the townspeople of Walpole. Town and meetinghouse prospered. The first minister, Rev. Phillips Payson, gave the town a parcel of ground on what is now ~~Front~~ ^{West St + Elm} Street, on which to build a school-house, with the agreement that so long as it was used for that purpose the land should belong to the town.

After a century of fairly peaceful existence young Rev. John P. B. Storer, a Harvard graduate, became the minister of the First Church. He did a great deal for the town. He is credited with having what are now very beautiful elms planted on the Common and on Common Street. 1826

But Rev. Mr. Storer became dissatisfied with the strict doctrines of Congregationalism and eventually the First Church became Unitarian, resulting in the withdrawal of a number of its members who organized the Orthodox Congregational Society on November 13, 1826. Their first building was erected on East St. This building had to be enlarged later and became known as the Congregational Church. Henry Plimpton was the first deacon and among its early pastors were Rev. Henry L. Kendall and Rev. John Keedy.

These Congregationalists obtained a property on Main St. known as the Bradford Lewis House, which was used as a parish house.

In 1839 the original meeting house was removed from the Common to a site on Common St. and was rededicated as a Unitarian Church.

Until 1937 services were held in the Congregational Church building, but that year the steeple was struck by lightning and the resulting damage rendered the building unfit for occupancy, and the congregation moved to the Methodist building. When the Congregational building was razed, it, together with the Bradford Lewis House, was sold, and plans for a new church building resulted in the decision to use the site of the original church and, on November 5, 1939, 100 years after the separation, the cornerstone for United Church was laid.

The first service in the old-new United Church was held on June 23, 1940, and it was dedicated on September 29 of that year. In a spirit of thankfulness for the past 25 years, and with high hopes for the future, the congregation will unite on Sunday in observing the 25th anniversary of one great church in a New England country town. The celebration will begin with a service at 4 p.m. on Sunday, with the present pastor, Rev. H. Gardner Anderson, officiating, and the first factor of the United Church, Rev. Mr. MacLeod, preaching the anniversary sermon.

Preceding the service there will be a carillon and organ concert from 3 to 4 o'clock, by Mrs. Sally Anne Warner, church organist.

Tea will be served in Bradford Lewis Hall following the service, when greetings from the Congregational Christian Churches will be brought by Rev. Dr. Fred Goodsell, formerly executive vice president of the American board and now an official in the National Council of Churches.

Early Walpole

Early in the present century (19th century) mode of travel was very limited, in this section of the country, at least. What is now known as Washington St., was built by the stage coach company, which ran a line of stages between Boston & Providence.

The first coaches which left Boston in the morning at four A.M., carried steam boat passengers. These stages usually arrived in South Walpole at about seven o'clock, where, they had breakfast at the Tavern, which was called the "Half Way House". This Tavern was kept by Nathaniel Polleys, for a number of years. Later came the accommodation coaches, which arrived in time for dinner. These carried any passengers, who wished to go from one point to another, on the route.

There was but one Post Office in town, and that was in East Walpole. The one mail was carried to and from the center by Dr. Wildes, on horseback. The Post Office was kept by David Morse, in the old store building. One mail bag carried all the mail between Boston and Providence. The mail was sorted at each office; whatever mail there might be for the office being taken out, the remainder tied again, and sent on to the next office.

There were but four schools in town. One was in South Walpole near present location, one in the center near the Willard Lewis house; one at West Walpole, and one at North Walpole off Fisher St. As there was no road to the latter school house, the children were obliged to go "cross lots", which must have been very pleasant in the winter, when the snow was three or four feet deep. The object in having the school house so unhandily situated, was to have it as near the center of the district as possible.

All the school children were obliged to go to the Center School, once a year, to ~~write~~ recite catechism to the Rev. Mr. Morey, pastor of the First Church.

Previous to 1826, there was but one church, Congregational-Unitarian, which stood on what is now the Common; near where the watering trough now is. There was no way of heating the church, until the ladies sewing circle, raised money enough to purchase two box-stoves, one for each end of the church: some people thought it desecrating to have a fire in church.

The Rev. Asahel Bigelow was ordained first pastor of the Second Church in 1828.

(copy of hand-written paper, dictated by Mr. Edmund Polleys, of East Walpole, for the Walpole Historical Society, Oct. 18, 1898. Edmund Polley, better known as Captain Polley, was born, March 27, 1812, a twin son of John & Hannah (Day?) Polley. He was a captain of the Walpole Light Infantry, the blacksmith at East Walpole, Tax collector of Walpole for many years, and the village undertaker of East Walpole. His house still stands next to the blacksmith shop, where he worked for so many years. He died on January 19, 1908, aged 95 years, 9 months and 10 days. His wife was Maria Shackley who he married in May 1840. Capt. Polley was a member of the Walpole Historical Society. His grandfather, Nathaniel Polley, kept Polley's Tavern in South Walpole.

F.R.L.

His house and blacksmith shop are just below the square in East Walpole, on Washington street.

Notes on The Walpole Churches.

1- The old church stood on the Common facing towards East Walpole. This church was the second in Walpole and was built in 1783, and for those times it was superior to many in two ways: it was plastered, and it had a bell. Many of the churches built before that time were not plastered, and many had no chimney. In Foxboro the people worshipped for months in their first church without either windows or doors, so great was their poverty.

2-Opposite the church lived Mrs. Bird, a woman of means and a big heart. It is said that every Sunday morning she used to put a stack of hard wood on her fireplace, so that at noon it would be in coals, so that the old ladies could fill their foot stoves for the afternoon service.

3-Passing along, we come to the spot where the old Thompson house was located. This was probably built as soon as the town was settled, and occupied nearly the spot where Thomas Maguire's old house now stands. (that would be at the north-east corner of East and Bird streets in East Walpole). It was here that the young daughter was scalped by the Indians, and when the family returned from church she was found dead on the hearth, probably by one of the Massapoag tribe, who lived near the lake of that name.

-the above three paragraphs were taken from an article entitled "A Walk from Walpole Center to East Walpole in 1800-- written over 50 years ago, by Miss Sarah E. Pettee (1837/8-1916) who lived on East street not far from the old Thompson house she mentions, in the house built in 1774 by Deacon Benjamin? Pettee, her ancestor.

4-Died in Walpole (Mass.) Nov. 19, 1849 - Mrs. Joanna Morey, aged 90. She was the daughter of Col. Seth Kingsbury of Walpole. She was the only survivor of a family of eight children. She was married in early life to Mr. Calvin Gay, a respectable citizen of that town, who is still remembered as a person possessing no ordinary share of intellectual power. By him she had four children--three daughters and one son, the Rev. Ebenezer Gay of Bridgewater. Some years after the death of her first husband, she became the wife of her minister, the Rev. George Morey of whose church she had been a member for a period of more than 30 years.

-from the newspaper "The Puritan Recorder" for Dec. 13, 1849- a copy of which is in the Walpole Historical Society.

5-Isaac Newton Lewis, in speaking of his father said: "He earlier aroused the church to make music a more prominent part of devine service, and although the weekly rehearsals were necessarily held over a mile away he never failed to be present, and the writer's earliest recollection is of him attired in his long Napoleon gray cloak, carefully grasping his precious old bass viol, with which he led the music each Sunday, hurrying out into the dark night and away. In 1851 he organized an effort to secure for his church a pipe organ by general subscription, and soon brought them a capital Jardine one upon which he and his son John first played." When only 16 years old he (John W. Lewis, son of William-the father of Isaac Newton Lewis) taught singing school in town and church, and the old Holbrook pipe organ on which he and his father, Sgt. William taught their church

Notes on the Walpole Churches

organ music is still a precious possession of the writer."

-from the book "William Lewis, Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk"
by Isaac Newton Lewis.

note-I suppose this above refers to the Orthodox-Congregational Church of Walpole, though it may refer to the Unitarian. F.R.L.

6-The following article appeared in the "Boston Transcript" many years ago--on the Antiques page:

"Mrs. Joseph S. Leach of Walpole, Mass., writes to inquire if the "Prowler" has the name of Abijah Fisher on his list. Abijah Fisher worked in Norwood and in the First Parish Unitarian Church of Walpole is a beautiful communion table and chair made by him, and in the same church an outstanding pulpit desk of his manufacture. Abijah's son James is known to have worked with his father and to have made many beautiful pieces of furniture."

Copy of Rev. Phillips Payson's original record.

Walpole, the Church Book (inside of front cover)

The number of ye church wⁿ gathered was these ten

Ebenezer Fales
Samuel Kingsbury
Thomas Clap
Ebenezer Robbins
James Bardens
Eleazer Patridge
Peter Fales
Joseph Carryl
Moses Chamberlain
Joseph Smith

they were (where) embodied July ye 2nd 1730.....I, Phillips Payson,
was ordaind pastor over them September ye 16th 1730.

Att ye solemnity Mr. Samel Dunbar begun with prayer, Mr. Messanger
Preached Phillipians 2:20, Mr. gave ye charge, Mr. ~~Bucknam~~ Bucknam
ye right hand of fellowship, yⁿ 68th Psalm ye 3^o part was sung.

The first Sabbath y^t I preacht att Walpole was June ye 8th 1729.

Pge one (this page is not in Rev. Payson's handwriting)

At a meeting of ye church Oct.29,1779 it was voted to settle
a minister, secondly voted to ask the town to join them in settling
the Gospel.

Thirddly--voted that ye Comm^{tee} hire Mr. Read to preach a longer
time with them----at a meeting of ye church Sat. Nov.^r 7th, 1779 it
was Voted to give Mr. Read a call to settle in the Ministry, thirty
voted for him and nine against.

Secondly--Voted to ask the Town to join in giving Mr. Read a call.

Sunday February 13 1780 Mr. Read gave his answer to the Call
he had from ye Church and Town in the negative.

At a meeting of the Church March 24, 1782 the Church voted to call Mr. Eliphalet Porter to the work of the ministry. July 21 (2.) Mr. Porter gave his answer to the Call of the Church and Town in the negative.

Feb^{ry} 9, 1783 the Church voted to call Mr. George Morey to the work of the Ministry

At a meeting of the Church Feb^{ry} 28th, 1783 to consult what Measures to take with regard to the Donation left the Church by Deaⁿ Robbins Deceased first voted to accept of the same on ye conditions of the will.

Second voted to let out the ~~capit~~ farm to pay the legacies ~~under~~ required.

Third--voted to know if the Town would license the ----for a Tavern (page torn).

(continued on page 2)

The meeting was then adjourned to the 10th of March following at noon Met then? according to Adjournment. Voted to let the Church Farm so long as to pay the Legacy, not exceeding three years.

Voted to Choose a Comm^{tees} of three. The Deaⁿ and Mr. Geo. Payson were chosen.

Voted to leave it to the Comm^{tees} to let the Farm on such Terms as they should think best.

Octo^r y^e 12, 1783 M^r George Morey gave his Answer to the Church & Congregation in the Affirmative.

At a Meeting of the Church Oct. 17, 1783 voted to appoint Wednesday the 19th of November next for the Ordination of Mr. Morey. Voted to send to the Churches of Norton, Mansfield, Sharon, Dedham, Medfield, and First Church in Medway to assist at the ordination.

Mr. Payson's record continues on page 3

"The First Year of My Ministry Sept. 10, 1730, an Account of Births--

Stephen Clap's child Oct. ye 1st.
Daniel Morse's child Oct. 2nd.
John Boyden's child Nov. 20
James Smith's child Dec. ?
Joseph Morse's child Jan. 7th 4th
William 's child, Feb. 8th
Joseph Smith's child Mar. ?
William Fisher's child Apr. 11
Ezra ~~Morse's~~ child June 16
Morse's
Benjamin Carryl's child June 20th
Jacob Ellis's child July 1st
Robert Allin's child Aug. 16th
Jeremiah Day's child Aug. 29th
13 born

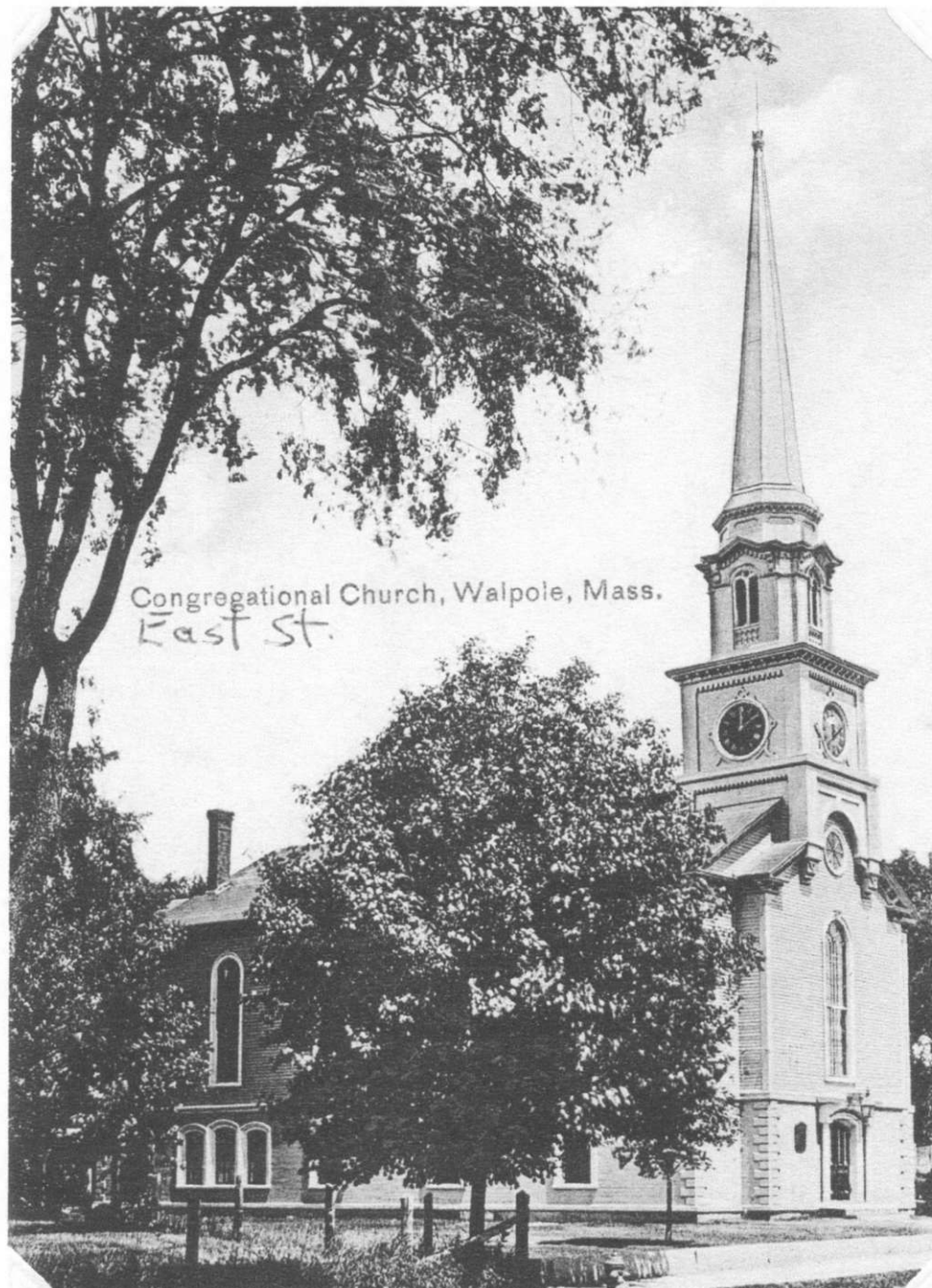
Deaths--

James Smith's child died Dec. 14th
Timothy Morse's daughter died March ye 17th
Joseph Smith died April 2nd.
Benjamin Pales died April 22nd.
Lydia Allin April 30th.
Daniel Smith's child died April 12th.

Died 9

Marriages--

Thomas Boyden of Wrentham & Susanna Harris May --?--?



Congregational Church, Walpole, Mass.
East St.

51

Church Notes from Major John A.
Gould's Diary 1785-1860 - of Walpole, Mass.

- 1-1839-"Rev. John P. B. Storer, after being the minister of the First Parish in Walpole 13 years, was at his prequest dismissed from his office. He then settled in Syracuse, N. Y. This first year the First Parish removed their meeting-house from the middle of the Common to the place where it now stands. And after re-modelling it was dedicated ~~at~~ on the 11th day of December, and the Rev. John M. Merrick was installed at the same time. I served on the building committee."
- 2-May 28th 1848 "This being Sunday, a religious service was held at 5 o'clock in the afternoon at the Rural Cemetery, at which meeting a sort of consecration was made of the place, as a public burying ground, in the year 1820. Within a few years past the premises have been greatly enlarged and now contains 3 or 4 acres of land."
- 3-Sept. 21st 1848 "A picnic tea party was held in the evening in the vestry in aid of the Rural Cemetery. The meeting was well attended and the sum of about \$130 was collected. I did not attend the meeting but wrote 16 letters for the Post Office department."
- 4-Nov. 19th 1849 "Mrs. Joanna Morey died in the 90th year of her age. She was the widow of the late Rev. George Morey, and formerly the wife of Calvin Gay. She was the mother of my first wife whose name was Rebecca Gay."
- 5-April 20th 1851 "The First Parish in Walpole have provided for their use an organ, which was used in the church this day for the first time. The tone of the organ seems smooth and pleasant. The cost of the organ is about \$675."
- 6-July 12th 1851 "Wrote a will for Widow Zilpha Smith of Walpole. Mrs. Smith is 93½ years of age; she examined and executed the will with a fair understanding upon the subject. This is a remarkable case of long life and sound mind."
- 7-Nov. 4th 1851 "Attended Probate Court and took letters of executorship under the will of Zilpha Smith, late of Walpole, widow deceased."
- 8-Nov. 8th 1851 "Hon. George Morey of Boston gave an address to the Whigs of Walpole at Bacon's Hall."
- 9-Dec. 7th 1852 "Settled my account at Probate Court as executor of the will of Zilpha Smith, late of Walpole, widow, deceased. Mrs. Smith died in October 1851, at the age of 93 years and some months. I wrote the will of Mrs. Smith about three months before her decease. By the will, the church of the First Parish in Walpole has received the sum of \$1265, the income of which is to be applied to the support of the ministry of said church and the parish with which it is connected."

ORDINATION OF MR. JOHN P. B. STOREY

TO THE PASTORAL CARE OF THE

Congregational Church and Society

IN WALPOLE,

ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1826.

ANTHEM.



INTRODUCTORY PRAYER.



SELECTIONS FROM SCRIPTURE.



ORIGINAL HYMN.

To thee, our Father and our King,
The wise, the gracious, and the just,
Our song of thanks and prayer we bring,
With humble joy, and filial trust.

Joy, that while yet the light is shed
On the bowed form and hoary hairs
Of him who here, so long, hath led
Our father's and our childhood's prayers.

Thou hast provided for thy flock
A pastor, in the strength of youth,
To lead them up to Thee, their Rock,
And to the living wells of truth.

And trust, that He, who ne'er hath left,
Will never leave his sheep to stray,
Of shepherd and of shade bereft,
O'er barren wastes, by night or day.

We thank Thee, Lord, in Christ thy Son,
For all his servants, spared or given,
O, may we, when our work is done,

SERMON BY REV. DR NICHOLS.



ORDAINING PRAYER.



CHARGE.



RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP.



CONCLUDING PRAYER.



ORIGINAL HYMN.

God of mercy, wilt thou never
From our offering turn away,
But command a blessing ever,
On the memory of this day.

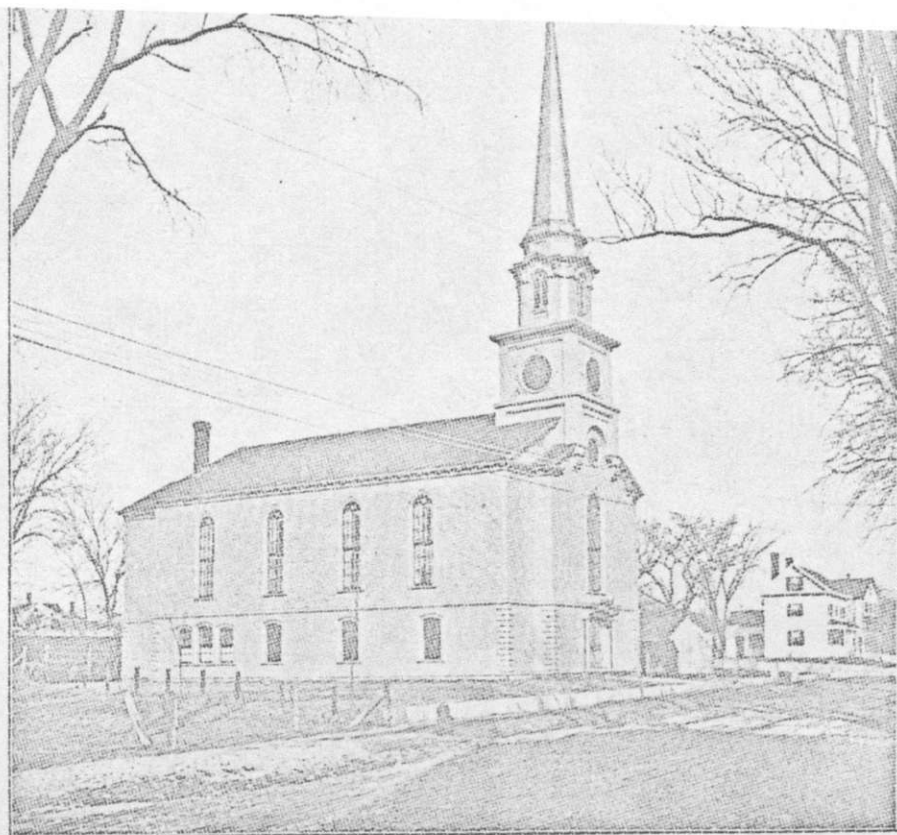
Light and peace wilt Thou ordain it,
O'er it be no shadow flung,
Let no deadly darkness stain it,
And no cloud be o'er it hung.*

May the song this people raises,
And its vows, to Thee address'd,
Mingle with the prayers and praises
That Thou hearest from the bless'd.

When the lips are cold, that sing Thee,
And the hearts that love Thee, dust,
Father, then our souls shall bring Thee
Holier love and firmer trust.

* See Job. iii. 4, 5.





PRESENT BUILDING OF THE SECOND CHURCH.

Remodeled and enlarged in 1866 from the original church building erected in 1827

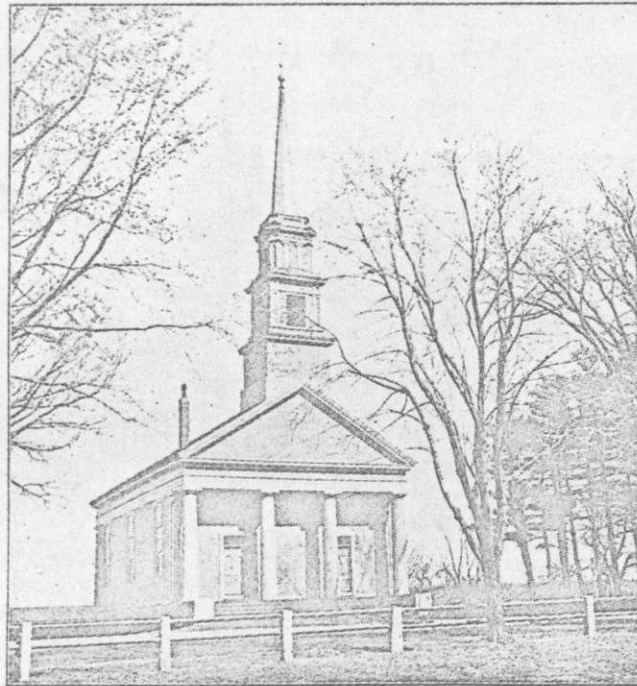
Organization of the Second Church

IN 1826, Henry Plimpton, a deacon in the First Church, with Aaron Guild, Joshua Allen, and twenty-six other members, became dissatisfied with the liberal views of the minister of the First Church, and withdrew. These twenty-nine persons formed the Second or "Orthodox" Church, "being desirous," as they said, "of enjoying the preaching and ordinances of the gospel in a manner that shall be for our better edification." This church was organized on the evening of Nov. 13, 1826, in the old Allen house located at the corner of Peach

town organization, provision for religious services was deferred a few months, till at the meeting March 30, 1725, it was voted to build a meeting-house.

On October 20 of this year 1725, the town agreed to maintain preaching for four months, by free contribution, and chose a committee to procure a minister.

On the 19th of May, 1726, the town "did elect and choose the Rev.



PRESENT BUILDING OF THE FIRST CHURCH
Remodeled in 1839 from the house of worship built in 1783. (2nd meeting ho

Joseph Belcher to preach the gospel and to settle among us." Mr. Belcher's incumbency, however, was brief; for on May 5, 1729, the town voted to dismiss him, and a committee was again chosen to provide preaching.

September 22, of the same year, the town voted to settle a minister. From a candidacy of three, Rev. Phillips Payson was chosen, with a

PASTORS

Joseph Belcher	-	accepted 1728; resigned 1729
Phillips Payson	-	elected 1729; died in 1778
George Morey	-	ca. 1780; to 1826

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH

John Storer		elected 1826	-	1839
John Merrick	-	-	-	1839 - 1865
W.B. Smith	-	-	-	1865 - 1874
Edward Young		INTERIM		
F.P. Hamblett	-	-	-	1877 - 1882
J.H. Weeks	-	-	-	1882 - 1891
G.H. Clare	-	-	-	1891 - 1892
Robert Savage	-	-	-	1893 - 1901
Herman Haugerud	-	-	-	1901 - 1902
Joseph Allen	-	-	-	1904 -
Louis C. Dethless	-	-	-	1907
Henry Stevens	-	-	-	---- to 1915
Robert Savage	-	-	-	1915 - 1925

United 1926

Howard P. Bozarth	-	-	Installed 1940
OTTO K. Jonas	-	-	1959
Paul Varga	-	-	1964
Herbert B. Yeager	-	Minister of Christian Education	1966
Harding Garrett	-	-	1975
Alan Hutchinson	-	-	1951 - 1952
H. Gardner Anderson	-	-	1951

The first Parish House was finished in 1828, and the main part of the present structure was built in 1856, and served many purposes, notably in both the Civil and World Wars, as headquarters for hospital supplies and (in 1918) for the hospitalization of influenza patients. In 1929 it was greatly enlarged and beautified by the generous act of a parishioner who in this and many other ways has borne out the spirit of those who gathered the Church three centuries ago.

The large clock in the church steeple was given by Edward Dowse and Mrs. Hannah Shaw. The clock in the auditorium was given by John and Samuel Doggett. The large clock given to the Church by Samuel Dexter in 1763 (son of the minister) is now preserved in the Dedham Historical Society with the old pulpit and sofa which were removed in the early interior remodeling. A musical instrument "to strengthen the bass" was first used at the ordination of Mr. Bates. The first church organ was installed in 1821, a new organ in 1857, and the present organ in 1913.

Membership in the Church is open to all, for it remains as it was in the beginning, a community Church. The original covenant has been shortened from time to time, but the present wording preserves for us the true intent of the founders.

"In the Spirit of Jesus Christ and in the freedom of the truth we unite for the worship of God and the service of man."

FOUNDERS AND MINISTERS

The eight men who gathered the Church in 1638 were John Allin, Edward Alleyn, John Luson, Ralph Wheelcok, John Frayry, Eleaser Lusher, Robert Hinsdale and John Hunting. The ministers who have served from that day to this were:

JOHN ALLIN	1638-1671	SETH CURTIS BEACH	1875-1888
WILLIAM ADAMS	1673-1685	WM. H. FISH	1889-1897
JOSEPH BELCHER	1693-1723	J. WORSLEY AUSTIN	1898-1902
SAMUEL DEXTER	1724-1755	ROGER SAWYER FORBES	
JASON HAVEN	1755-1803		1903-1908
JOSHUA BATES	1803-1818	WM. H. PARKER	1909-1921
ALVAN LAMSON	1818-1860	CHARLES R. JOY	1922-1927
BENJAMIN H. BAILEY	1861-1867	LYMAN V. RUTLEDGE	1927-
GEORGE MCKEAN FOLSOM	1869-1875		

First Church Tercentenary

1638 - 1938



*Commemorating 300th Anniversary
of First Church in Dedham*

PARISH SET APART SEPT. 10, 1636
CHURCH GATHERED NOV. 8, 1638

CHURCH AND PARISH

Two events in the life of the First Church in Dedham lend it a rare distinction: the manner of its organization and the court decision of 1818, said by the historian, Erastus Worthington, to be "the most significant event in the whole history of Dedham."

The Church was "gathered" on Nov. 8, 1638. It was not set off from any parent society, nor established by any superior body, but "gathered" by the concerted action of the early settlers. It is recorded in the careful notes of the first minister, Rev. John Allin, that in the beginning, while the settlement was small, (numbering hardly more than thirty families) a group of citizens came together on Thursday mornings to consider various problems of a religious nature. First of all they questioned whether they had a right to discuss religion in the absence of an ordained minister or elder. They decided that they had. Thursday became a regular meeting day for the discussion of religion. In the course of time they requested the authorities of Watertown to release certain members who had come to Dedham to live; that they might unite with a new society to be formed here. Watertown refused. Thereupon one of the leading citizens, (John Allin himself) called another into personal conference. The two decided upon a third, and these upon a fourth until ten had been drawn into the circle. These mutually agreed to leave the room one at a time, that the remaining nine might consider the fitness of the absent member for the important task of forming a Church. Six were found to be satisfactory in the eyes of their brethren. Of the remaining four only one, Mr. Edward Alleyn, was later accepted. There was a question, we know not what, as to his past, and word was awaited from England to clear his name. Later a young man, John Hunting, came to Dedham and was readily accepted. Here then were eight men drawn together by the spirit to form a Church without the assistance of any ordained minister or superior officer. Placing their hands upon the head of John Hunting the others ordained him to the office of ruling elder. Vested with this authority he proceeded to look about for a minister and at once invited John Allin to consider the office. Hands were placed upon Mr. Allin's head, and by that simple act he was ordained minister. Thus was the Church of Christ, later in 1730 called the First Church in Dedham, gathered, and thus it remains a completely independent church society. There is nowhere to be found a more beautiful and inspiring evidence of the moving power of the Spirit among laymen;—nor a more conclusive argument as to whether a congregation has the power and authority to ordain one of its lay members into the office of the ministry.

The Dedham Decision arose from a most unfortunate division among our church members in 1818. In that year the Parish, acting under the Constitution of the Commonwealth, extended a call to the youthful Alvan Lamson to become its minister. The Church thereupon proceeded to vote in August by a majority of two of those present and voting, that they were not ready to choose a minister; and in this act did not concur with the Parish. Later, in October, the previous so-called majority voted to choose a committee to protest the ordination of Mr. Lamson. A suit of replevin was brought by the Deacons of the remaining Church members against the surviving Deacon of the so-called majority who had taken possession of the property of the Church. The decision was handed down by the court in favor of the remaining members. It was to the effect that the Parish created the Church, which had a right to the property as the Church of the Parish. The dissenting members formed a new society, now known as the Allin Congregational Church, and promptly called the Rev. Ebenezer Burgess to serve as Pastor.

THE MEETING HOUSES

The first meeting house, thirty-six feet long and twenty wide, was ready in its unfinished state and waiting before the Church itself was gathered on November 8, 1638. The walls were twelve feet high, and there was no ceiling. The roof was thatched. The assemblies were called together by a drum until 1652 when a bell was installed in a penthouse in the middle of the roof. In 1672 the first meeting-house was torn down and a second built on its foundation. In 1700 twelve feet were added on the west side. The bell was hung in a turret on the roof.

The third, (and present) meeting-house was voted in 1761. It was to be sixty feet long and forty-six wide. On the 24th of January, 1762, the north sill of the new house was laid on the north line of the old foundation. A steeple was erected on the north end for the bell. There were entrances through the steeple and the porches on the east side and south side. The pulpit was on the west side in the place set for it from 1638. Following the court decision of 1818 the building was extensively remodeled. The steeple was removed from the north end, the roof was turned to run east and west, the east side was extended and the present steeple built facing the east. About 1824 a new bell from the Medway foundry was installed. The square pews were removed shortly after the Civil War, and the present commodious pews were installed.



THE SECOND MEETING HOUSE OF THE FIRST CHURCH
IN WALPOLE, 1783-1839.

ORDER OF EXERCISES

AT THE
INSTALLATION OF THE REV. JOHN M. MERRICK,
AND THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW CHURCH,
ERECTED BY THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY IN WALPOLE.
DECEMBER 11, 1839.

1. ANTHEM.

Lift up your heads Eternal gates.

2. INTRODUCTORY AND DEDICATORY PRAYER.

3. SELECTIONS FROM SCRIPTURE.

4. HYMN 319.

1 O how thine ear, Eternal One!
On thee our heart adoring calls;
To thee the followers of thy son
Have rais'd and now devote these walls.

2 Here let thy holy days be kept;
And be this place--to worship given--
Like that bright spot where Jacob slept,
The house of God, the gate of heaven.

3 Here may thine honor dwell; and here,
As incense, let thy children's prayer,
From contrite hearts and lips sincere,
Rise on the still and holy air.

4 Here be thy praise devoutly sung;
Here let thy truth beam forth to save,
As when of old, thy spirit hung
On wings of light o'er Jordan's wave.

5 And when the lips, that with thy name
Are vocal now, to dust shall turn,
On others may devotion's flame
Be kindled here, and purely burn.

5. SERMON,

BY REV. GEORGE RIPLEY.

6. DEDICATORY ANTHEM.

And will the great eternal God,
On earth establish his abode?
And will he from his radiant throne,
Avow our temples as his own.

These walls we to thy honor raise,
Long may they echo to thy praise,
And thou descending fill the place,
With choicest tokens of thy grace.

Here let the great Redeemer reign.
With all the glories of his train,
Whilst power divine his word attends,
To conquer foes and cheer his friends.

Great King of glory come,
And with thy favor crown.
This temple as thy dome,
This people as thy own.

7. PRAYER OF INSTALLATION.

8. CHARGE,
BY REV. DR. LAMSON.

9. ANTHEM.
How Lovely is Zion.

10. RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP. BY REV. MR. ROBINSON.

11. CHANT.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the Hills from
whence cometh my help. My help cometh
from the Lord which made Heaven and
Earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved. He
that keepeth thee shall not slumber. Behold He
that keepeth Israel shall not slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper, the Lord is thy
shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall
not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil,
He shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall
preserve thy going out, and thy coming in
from this time forth, and even forever more.—
Amen.

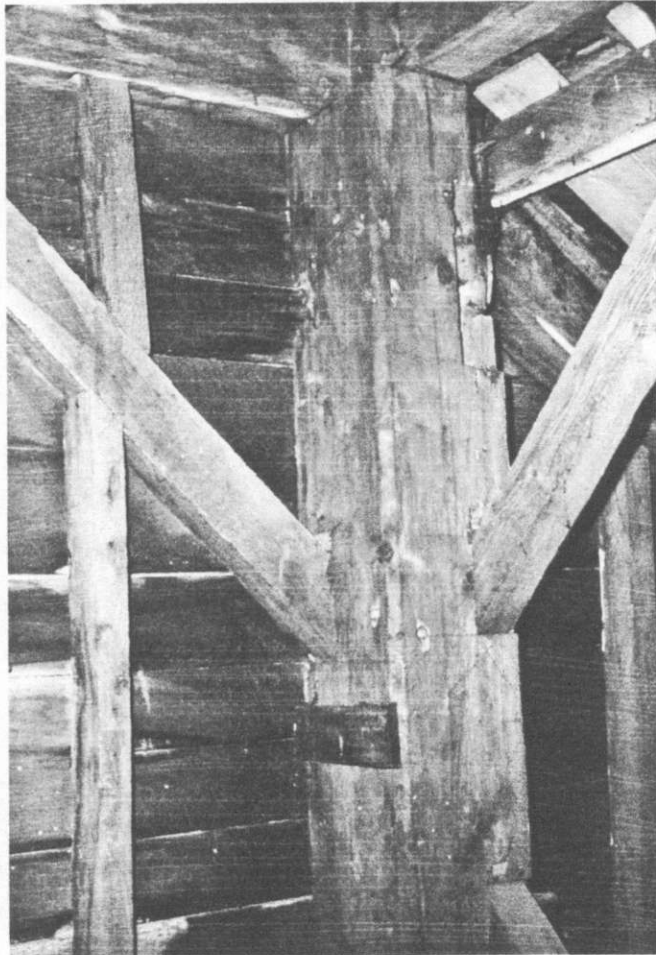
12. ADDRESS

TO THE SOCIETY,
BY REV. MR. SEWALL.

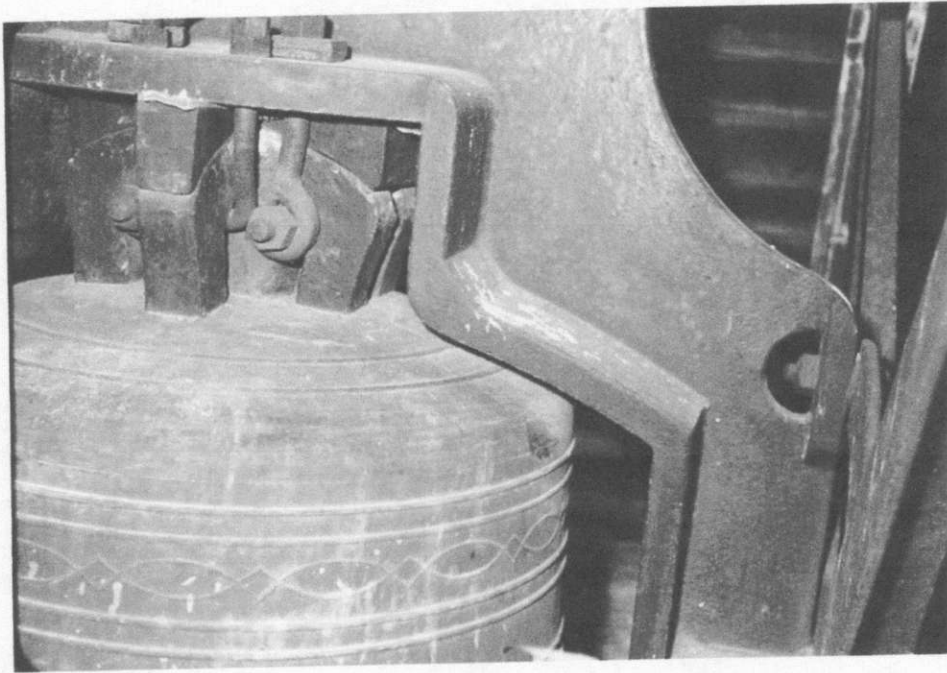
13. CONCLUDING PRAYER.

14. DOXOLOGY.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.



Beams in steeple of United Church
from original 2nd Meeting House



Bell from Second Meeting House
on the Common